

FEB 13 1963

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00001R000300140016-3

Letters to the Editor

Unadulterated Water

Washington water is technically potable, i. e., non-noxious, but by any civilized standard it is an affront to all the senses, except perhaps hearing.

I would like to make a very modest proposal. Perhaps we could afford to tap a few clear springs—not too close to septic tanks—in Maryland or Virginia, and run a simple one-inch piping system to key parks and street corners in the city. These outlets might be equipped with treadle-operated spigots to avoid the waste of a continuous flow, however agreeable to the senses.

There, the thirsty citizens could come with a few gallon jars and get a week's supply of pelucid, sparkling liquid which would restore the zest of brushing teeth and swallowing tranquilizers. (Of course, some people, like the city boy exposed to a country egg for the first time, might complain that it was tasteless.)

One might hope that pretty girls would flock there, as in Italy and other less affluent countries, gracefully balancing antique copper jugs on their heads (better than phone books for posture). If attractively designed, these oases could become foci of urbane sociability, superior even to sidewalk cafes.

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